

The usual method of proceeding, which has been introduced in the Federal Republic of Germany, at least, for Internet access or on-line access, consists of the fact that the subscriber, with his PC, is connected via a telecommunications network, such as the ISDN network, for example. With the latter, he creates a dial-up connection to the appropriate Internet Access

5 Provider (IAP). After that, he avails himself of either the IAP's offerings, which provides, if applicable, services of its own, such as weather forecasts, discussion forums, offers of goods for sale in conjunction with partner firms, etc. (IAP is, simultaneously, the on-line SP or ISP), or he uses the IAP as a transition to the Internet Service Providers, ISP's, who are connected to the Internet worldwide. As a rule, however, this communication occurs only if the subscriber has a  
10 contractual relationship with both a telecommunications firm (Telco) as IAP access, as well as an additional contractual relationship with an IAP, which can, according to the example that was cited above, itself, be an ISP.

The structure of the transmission costs is correspondingly complicated. As a rule, it is comprised  
15 of monthly basic fees for both providers (Telco and IAP), as well as of connection-specific current costs for the individual session. Additional costs, which are covered by a separate bill, billed to a credit card or, in some cases, such as T-online, for example, covered by the telephone bill by means of special contractual relationships between ISP and provider, accrue for those availing themselves of any ISP services.

20 The problem associated with proceeding in this manner consists, in particular, of the fact that the subscriber, until such time as the ex post facto monthly telephone bill arrives, has no clue at all as to the costs he has incurred with his Internet access. The only indication he possesses at present is the optional indication of file size, which is displayed in the FTP download procedure  
25 by many ISP's. With this information, for example, the customer can calculate his telephone company's transmission costs, as well as his IAP's costs per session himself, before demanding the data as a download.

30 However, this process is not altogether trivial. First of all, the customer must know his telephone line's data transmission speed and that of his terminal adapter or modem, as well as the protocol overhead of the Internet and application protocols, more or less. Then he calculates the required

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A process displaying prior to transmission for the display of transmission costs in the transmission of Internet data or on-line data by a services/information provider to a subscriber, including:

prior to a pending transfer of data, transferring a protocol element (9) by the services/information provider (6) to the subscriber's terminal unit (4), wherein the protocol element contains an indication of the pending volume of data;

recognizing the protocol element (9) at one or more transit nodes of the telecommunications networks (3, 4, 5) that are involved in the transmission;

supplementing as needed the protocol element (9) by a partial cost based on a transmission through the one or more transit nodes; wherein the supplementing step is performed by the one or more transit nodes;

evaluating the protocol element (9) at the subscriber's terminal unit (4) to determine the value of a pending transmission;

displaying the a total of pending transmission costs at the subscriber's terminal unit (4) via browser software to the subscriber, said; and

~~displaying, with the browser software displaying,~~ a menu (10) enabling such that the subscriber to institutes the transmission of the data or refuses the transmission of data based on the total of pending transmission costs.

2. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the protocol element (9) includes one or more price-relevant criteria selected from a group consisting of: quality of service; priority of transmission, routing instructions; price group; contractual comment; degrees of security; and an indication of the sender.